

Dr. MUSGRAVE's
R E P L Y
To a LETTER

Published in the NEWS-PAPERS

B Y

The Chevalier D'EON.

12 G. 4

*Quale per incertam. Lunam sub luce maligna
Est iter in sylvis* —

VIRG.

P L Y M O U T H:

Printed by R. WEATHERLEY, for the Benefit of the

CHARITY-SCHOOL.

MDCCLXIX.

10

A D V E R T I S E M E N T .

This Pamphlet is entered in the Hall Book of the
Company of Stationers; and whoever pirates any
Part of it will be prosecuted.



A
R E P L Y
T O T H E
Chevalier *D' E O N' s*
L E T T E R, &c.

IN the month of *September* 1766, about four months after my being settled at *Exeter*, I order'd the following advertisement to be inserted in the *St. James's Evening Chronicle*, by way of challenge to all parties concern'd, to contradict it, reserving to myself the option of executing or not executing what I announc'd, according as I should see occasion:

PREPARING *for the* PRESS.

And in due Time will be Published,

DEDICATED to the PARLIAMENT,

INTERESTING *papers relating to the peace, containing,*

1. *Narrative of intelligence received at Paris.*
2. *Copy of a letter to Lord Hertford, dated Jan. 30, 1765.*
3. *Copy of his Lordship's answer, dated April 7, 1765.*
4. *Copy of a second letter to Lord Hertford, dated April 16, 1765.*
5. *Copy of his Lordship's second answer, dated*

May

May 1, 1765. N. B. *The above five papers having been laid before Dr. Blackstone, were by his advice delivered to Lord Halifax, May 10, 1765. 6. Substance of a paper delivered to Lord Halifax at a second conference, May 14, 1765. 7. Account of what passed at a second conference, May 14, 1765. 8. Account of a third conference with Lord Halifax, May 18, 1765. 9. Account of the conference with the right honourable the Speaker of the house of commons, April 24, 1766. 10. Account of the Chevalier D'Eon's overtures to impeach three persons by name of selling the peace to the French. 11. Account of the bill of indictment found against a great foreigner, for a conspiracy to assassinate the Chevalier D'Eon. 12. Account of the noli prosequi, granted to stop proceedings against the said foreigner. 13. Account of the attempt made to seize the person and papers of the Chevalier D'Eon, the 20th. of November, 1764, by a warrant from the then ministry. 14. Account of the pension granted to Count Viri, for his services in making the peace. 15. Extract of a letter from the Duke de Nivernois, to the Duke de Praslin, dated at London, February 20, 1763.*

To this challenge, though repeated three times, no other answer was made than what is contained in the following letter, printed in the *St. James's Chronicle*, some few posts after, in *French and English*.

‘A l’Auteur du *Chronique de St. James*.

‘MONSIEUR,

‘*J’ai lu avec beaucoup de surprise dans votre gazette du Chronique de St. James du 7, Oct. 1766, Cro. 874 l’*
‘*annonce*

‘ annonce d’ un ouvrage que l’ on dit etre sous presse et
 ‘ dedie au parlement; contenant en autres pieces extraordinaires
 ‘ des ouvertures SUPPOSEES du chevalier D’Eon,
 ‘ pour accuser trois personnes par noms, d’ avoir vendu la
 ‘ derniere paix a la France, et differens autres papiers de
 ‘ cette nature.

‘ Si j’ en etois l’ auteur, je n’ aurois pas au moins l’ emper-
 ‘ tinance, ni le dedier au parlement, ni d’ injerer, comme on le
 ‘ fait, dans le dit avertissement des noms si respectables.

‘ Je vous declare, Monsieur, ainsi qu’ au public, sur mon
 ‘ honneur que je n’ ai aucune part, ni directe, in indirecte, a l’
 ‘ impression d’ un tel ouvrage, ni a tous les autres que l’ on
 ‘ pourroit publier sous mon nom, ou de facon a faire entendre,
 ‘ que j’ y eusse, ou puisse avoir quelque part.

‘ Pour donner toute l’ authenticité possible a une declaration,
 ‘ je vous prie instamment de l’ imprimer en Francois et en An-
 ‘ glois dans votre gazette.

‘ Je suis, Monsieur,

‘ Votre tres humble,

‘ Et tres obeissant serviteur,

‘ LE CHEV. D’EON.

‘ A YORK, }
 ‘ Le 18. Oct. 1766.’ }

‘To the AUTHOR of the *St. James’s*
Chronicle,

‘S I R,

‘I Have seen, with much surprise, in your paper of the
 ‘ 7th. instant, an advertisement of a work, said to be
 ‘ preparing for the press, dedicated to the parliament, con-
 ‘ taining, amongst other extraordinary pieces, an account
 ‘ of the *Chevalier D’Eon’s* overtures, to impeach three per-
 ‘ sons, by name, of selling the peace to the *French*, and
 ‘ other papers of that nature.

‘ If I had been the author, I should not have had the
 ‘ impertinence to have dedicated them to the parliament;
 ‘ nor to have inserted names so respectable as those in the
 ‘ said advertisement.

‘ I declare to you, Sir, as well as to the publick, upon my
 ‘ honour, that I have no concern, directly, or indirectly,
 ‘ in the impresson of any such work; nor in any other
 ‘ which may be published under my name, or in any way
 ‘ insinuating that I have had, or will have any concern
 ‘ therein. And to authenticate, as much as possible, this
 ‘ my declaration, I beg you will immediately print the
 ‘ above in your paper.

‘ I am sir,

‘ Your humble servant,

‘ LE CHEV. D’EON.

‘ York, Oct. }
 ‘ 18, 1766.’ }

I submit it to the judgment of the public, whether in either of these letters, there is any contradiction to the account of the *Chevalier D'Eon's* having made overtures to impeach three persons by name, of selling the peace to the *French*. The utmost that can be collected from them is, that the *Chevalier D'Eon* was not privy to the announc'd publication, and had no concern in it.

It is very observable, that in the *French* letter the *Chevalier D'Eon* uses the expression *ouvertures supposées*. The word *supposer* in *French* has two meanings. It signifies, either precisely what the word *suppose* does in *English*, and it also signifies *to forge, to counterfeit, to pretend falsely*. Had the *English* letter been an exact translation of the *French*, this ambiguity must have been explain'd. But it so happens that in the translation there is no word answering to the word *supposées*, and consequently we are left at a loss, whether we ought to understand it in the former sense, or the latter.

Is it not evident from hence that the *Chevalier D'Eon's* abhorrence of calumny, was not so quick and lively in the year 1766, as it is become in the year 1769? How otherwise can we account for his absolute silence, or, at least, studied ambiguity, with respect to the main point, whether such overtures had ever been made? Must we say, that the *Chevalier D'Eon* at that time did not know, or had not determined in his own mind, whether he *had* made such overtures, or no, and that he waited for some future event to turn the ballance?

I leave the reader to make his own remarks upon the correction which the *Chevalier D'Eon*, so famous for his respectful behaviour to his superiors, is pleased to give me, for barely mentioning the names of five or six great men, as well as for my declar'd intention of dedicating to the Parliament a work, the subject of which was solely and inherently cognizable by Parliament. It is of more importance to point out to him another very material and striking difference, between the year 1766, and the year 1769.

It is well known that for some years after the *Chevalier D'Eon* was divested of his ministerial character, he was obliged to disguise himself, to conceal his abode, and had, or pretended to have, continual apprehensions of being murdered, or carried off by force. Within a year or two last past he has appeared publickly, has past by his own name, has made one, if not more excursions into *Cornwall*; in one of which he was pointed out to me, as he was passing thro' the streets of *Plymouth*. Happy man! to have found out the secret of pacifying the *French* court, after insulting their ambassador, reviling their country, and publishing a part of those dispatches, of which he is now forsooth the conscientious depositary. Did their resentment for those freedoms die with the *Count de Guerchy*? Or did he make his atonement by a handsome present, since they it seems, and not the *English* ministry, may be reasonably suspected of corruption?

Shall we desire the *Chevalier D'Eon* to account for these very different appearances, or shall we rather take the
account

account given in the following letter, which appeared in the *St. James's Chronicle*, December 17, 1767.

‘ To the P R I N T E R,

‘ S I R,

‘ E V E R Y true friend to liberty, and to the peace
‘ and happiness of mankind in general, should, I
‘ think, rejoice and feel a sensible pleasure to see the affair
‘ of the *Chevalier D'Eon*, which was once near terminating
‘ in *blood and violence*, now in a way, or likely to be so
‘ soon, of ending to his honour and advantage, as well as
‘ to that of both nations.

‘ This I collect from some public and private intelligence, as also from the article from Paris lately in the papers, giving an account that his *valet de chambre*, who had been near three years confined in the *Bastille* on his master's account, was lately discharged from thence by order of the *Duke de Choiseul*, prime minister, with a gratification of *fifteen thousand livres*!

‘ Great and uncommon as this recompense may appear, *the fact* I am nevertheless well informed *is true*; nay farther, that he has since been made an *Exempt des Marichaux de France*; and, therefore, I think such an act of justice and generosity not less honourable to the French nation in general, than to the *Duke de Choiseul* in particular, who thus nobly recompensed the long captivity of this faithful servant to his master.

‘ After

‘ After performing this act of justice and liberality to
‘ the servant, no doubt but the like and more will be soon
‘ extended towards the master; who though perhaps, like
‘ other mortals, if not quite perfection, yet appears of a
‘ very great and amiable character.

‘ Those, indeed, who have *fully* attended to the *whole*
‘ of his very hard case, and judge candidly, think he was
‘ basely used and grievously wronged, previous much to
‘ what some deem the exceptionable part of his conduct,
‘ and therein not at all, or so much to blame, being found-
‘ ed on the first principle of nature, viz. *self-defence*, and
‘ those of *law*, if not of this country, at least of those abroad.

‘ But as he greatly therein supported himself under the
‘ most *trying circumstances* man ever underwent, and his
‘ virtues, like pure gold in the furnace, after standing this
‘ strong test, have turned out only the brighter. He can-
‘ not, therefore, but be an object of respect and esteem,
‘ if not of higher consideration, even to *those*, who, for
‘ *political* reasons, and for a *while* have *seemed* displeased
‘ with his firmness and resolution.

‘ Providence has, no doubt, after this great trial, at
‘ length interposed in his favour so as to remove the *great*
‘ *obstacle* to a thorough and *open* reconciliation with his *su-*
‘ *periors*! Every generous and candid mind will, therefore,
‘ wish and hope a due sense of its awful dispensation in
‘ this respect, and awaken *their* attention thoroughly so as
‘ to co-operate and restore him, if not to his former fa-
‘ vour and station, at least to that *justice* which appears so
‘ evidently his due for his great and faithful services.

‘ In

‘ In return, it is said, the papers remaining with him relating to the peace, are ready to be delivered up entire, *unfollied* by the least view or inspection of any one but himself. A matter of that importance should not, perhaps, be delayed a moment, as accidents may happen, which might make such delay of great prejudice to both nations.

‘ What pity, instead of doing such justice long ago, and receiving then those *papers*, as was offered on the most reasonable and equitable terms, horrible machinations were formed to *seize* them by *violence*, a gang of *desperadoes* was imported here into this land of liberty for that purpose, headed by a well known chief of *intriguing* and wily renown, with intent to destroy, or carry off the Chevalier by force (of which very ample evidence, it is said, is in hand.) But the same great and most gracious power that so apparently has delivered him of the *great director* of such unwarrantable schemes, surely then at such hours of severe trial assisted him with an amazing firmness and unheard-of spirit and constancy, so as to preserve him and frustrate all their wicked designs, and, finally, make the author a victim * of his own apparent iniquity, to the peace and happiness perhaps of both nations, as well as to the now-appearing lasting honour and advantage of the survivor.

‘ For had the execution of such diabolical schemes and
B contrivances

* What can this mean? Not surely that *Guerchy*, who died immediately after his return, was put to death by the court of *France*, as a preliminary sacrifice to the resentment of the *Chevalier D'Eon*, before this latter would consent to deliver up his papers.

‘ contrivances taken place ; had this gang of desperadoes
 ‘ (in number, it is said, twenty-five) with their daring
 ‘ chief (who were, as appears, hired, brought over, and
 ‘ entertained here at great expence, and appeared under
 ‘ various disguises about this town) had they, as it seems
 ‘ was intended, furrounded, seized, gagged, and muffled
 ‘ him, and in that condition put him in a kind of fish ma-
 ‘ chine (made on purpose) in order to drive him to the
 ‘ river side, where a barge was to be ready to convey him
 ‘ on board a ship in waiting on the coast of Suffex, in or-
 ‘ der to transport him to that of France, there probably
 ‘ not to receive the reward of his faithful services, and
 ‘ disbursements in his country’s cause, but perhaps to fall
 ‘ a sacrifice to pride, rage and revenge, or suffer the pun-
 ‘ ishment due to those, who, instead of doing such jus-
 ‘ tice, thus designed violence to the laws of nations, and
 ‘ in fact, did poison, and also bribe and endeavour to per-
 ‘ suade others to assassinate him.

‘ Had so bold, so daring, so flagitious a plan been exe-
 ‘ cuted here, each individual must have trembled for his
 ‘ own personal liberty and security, not only in this happy
 ‘ island, but every where else on the face of the globe.
 ‘ Such desperate action must have been deemed the high-
 ‘ est affront, not only to the laws of this realm, but to
 ‘ every other, “ as a direct attack of territorial rights, ”
 ‘ and an infringement of the laws of nations.

‘ This I may safely affirm was the sentiment of a very
 ‘ great minister of state on being acquainted with such de-
 ‘ sign, who, it appears, further declared, “ if such attempt
 ‘ was made, it would interest all sovereign dignity, and the
 ‘ authority

‘ authority of all governments, as well as the particular
‘ laws and liberties of the British nation. ”

‘ Happy, therefore, this daring design was thus disap-
‘ pointed by the Chevalier’s firmness and address, or it
‘ might have proved of very fatal consequence. As great
‘ events often proceed from little causes, so might the
‘ destructive flame of war been re-kindled’ (*Indeed! The
War re-kindled!*) ‘ from so small a spark as this seeming
‘ trifling difference between two ministers, not then of
‘ war, but of peace.

‘ Happy again that such unjustifiable designs proved
‘ abortive, and that justice at length will in this respect
‘ take place of blood and violence; and that from due
‘ consideration of the whole, we may now hope to see
‘ soon one instance more of ample reparation made to
‘ long and much injured virtue and merit.

‘ These surely are the sentiments of all honest and can-
‘ did Britons, such as are well informed and have duly
‘ considered every circumstance of this very long and
‘ extraordinary case, and are any wise lovers of truth,
‘ justice and merit, or sincere friends to the peace and
‘ happiness of mankind in general.

‘ I am, S I R,

‘ Your most humble servant,

Soho, Dec. 12.

‘ CANDIDUS.’

This gentleman, whoever he be, seems to write from a good heart, and therefore, I hope, he will now stand forth, and produce some of those private informations he mentions.

When the *Chevalier D'Eon* has clear'd up these particulars, which no doubt he will do with very little trouble, I will then intreat him to cast an eye upon the following passages, and bestow a part of his leisure in giving me a solution of them: They are, it is true, but scraps and orts, tho' still sufficient to make the public regret that fuller meal of which it is unfortunately depriv'd.

In a pamphlet published by the *Sieur Goudart*, by the express order and command of the *Count de Guerchy* * the *Chevalier D'Eon* is charged with indiscretion for the following reasons.

‘ Dans l’ etat present de l’ Europe les petites choses
‘ decouvrent les grandes. †

IN ENGLISH thus:

‘ In the present state of Europe the smaller things are
‘ a key to unriddle the greater.’

I should be glad to know, what these great things were, that remain'd to be carried on *after* the conclusion of the peace, and which it was necessary to conceal so anxiously, that it became a crime in *D'Eon* to drop the least hint of them.

The *French* author goes on: ‘ *Entre deux nations rivales,*
‘ *qui*

* See Dupre's affidavit in the *Suite des negociations particulieres du Chevalier D'Eon*, P. 85.

† *Pieces relatives aux lettres et memoires du Chevalier D'Eon*, a *Londres*, 1764, P. 126.

‘ qui se tatent continuellement, les minuties servent à percer le
 ‘ voile de la politique, et le ministre qui en ôte un coin se rend
 ‘ aussi coupable que celui qui le déchire en entier.

IN ENGLISH :

‘ Between two rival nations, that are continually found-
 ‘ ing one another, even *minutiae* serve to pierce the veil
 ‘ of policy, and the minister who takes away a corner
 ‘ of it, renders himself as blameable, as he who tears
 ‘ it from one end to the other.’

In the name of wonder what can this veil of policy mean? Not surely those avowable transactions, which pass thro’ the common channel of business, and are freely debated by the great officers of state. There must be something of a different nature behind, to make those veils and curtains and concealments necessary.

Further: In a letter written by one of the friends of *Monsieur D'Eon*, it is said of *Monsieur L'Escallier*: ‘ Il est
 ‘ publiquement démontré que si l'on offroit cent guinees au
 ‘ premier secrétaire de Monsieur de Guerchy, il vendroit le
 ‘ secret de l'ambassade.’ *

IN ENGLISH ;

‘ It is publicly demonstrated that if 100 guineas were
 ‘ offered to the first secretary of the *Count de Guerchy*,
 ‘ he would sell the secret of the embassy.’

The

* *Pièces relatives*, P. 144.

The *secret* of an embassy from one enemy or rival to another, can, in my apprehension, be nothing but treachery. What regards their common advantage, is not worth keeping with so much secrecy.

To assist the reader in construing these dark mysterious expressions, I will now lay before him some extracts from the letters and dispatches of the *Duke de Nivernois*. Which extracts I presume to be the same that drew upon the *Chevalier D'Eon*, the censure of indiscretion above-mentioned.

The *Duke de Nivernois* in a letter dated Feb. 20, 1763, writes to the *Duke de Praslin*, as follows. *

‘*Tout autre donneroit de l'inquietude. M. Bute l'a pris en amitié, et a tres bonne opinion de lui, ce qui n'est pas peu dire. Cela ne se trouve pas dans le pas d'un cheval et quiconque viendroit, manqueroit probablement cette trouvaille: Les affaires iront ainsi une tenore: Les personnes n'auront pas la crainte de trouver a dechanter, ainsi point d'ombrage, et tout ira aussi bien, que la nature des choses et du pais le comportent.*

This passage is so curious, that I should not do it justice, if I did not remark upon it paragraph by paragraph:

‘Every other’ (but D'Eon) ‘would give uneasiness.’
Uneasiness?

* This and the two following quotations are taken from the *Chevalier D'Eon's* quarto volume, which not having by me, I cannot refer to the pages.

Uneasiness? to whom? Can it be a matter of uneasiness to an honest *English* nobleman, whether this Marquis or that Chevalier is Minister Plenipotentiary in *England*? It may indeed be matter of preference, because one Minister may be more tractable and candid than another. But uneasiness surely can only arise from guilt, and from the apprehension, that the new Minister may be less discreet and cautious, than the old one.

‘ Lord *Bute* has taken a liking to him, which is saying a good deal. This is an advantage not to be found at every step a horse makes, and whoever should come would probably want this piece of luck.’

IT FOLLOWS:

‘ Affairs will thus go on *uno tenore*.’ The Duke de *Nivernois* was pretty right in his prediction. Affairs have gone on *uno tenore* almost ever since.

‘ *The persons* will not be afraid of being obliged to sing backwards.’ Here I hope the Duke is mistaken, and that we shall, sooner or later, find some way of making them sing backwards.

‘ Thus there will be no ombrage.’ Ombrage in *French* does not signify, a pet, or fit of ill humour, but distrust. It may be applied here either to the persons unknown, or else to the public.

‘ And every thing will go on as well as the nature of
‘ the

‘ the business and of the country will admit of.’ When I find a *French* minister talking in this strain, that every thing will go on very well for them, it raises my curiosity to know how he could foresee it, and what it alludes to; whether it be the imposition of the Cyder-tax; or the wilfully and wantonly embroiling us with *America*, upon a matter of mere punctilio; or the restoring the sons of the rebel Lords to their estates in *Scotland*, under colour of an auction *; or whether it relates to any plot for giving up our forts to the *French* in *America*, for which Major *Rogers* was lately tried, and, after a fashion, acquitted; or lastly, to the reviving a quarrel of a hundred years old against the *Dutch*, at a time when we expect to be attack’d by *France* and *Spain*. Whatever it be, whether one or all of these, it is plain that something was in agitation, which could not go on glibly, from the very nature of the country.

This man of gaiety and humour, this *Duke de Nivernois*, does not perfectly suit my fancy, notwithstanding my own love of cheerfulness and society. For a man who is machinating the ruin of a whole nation, to attend their parties of pleasure, and join in their merriment, has something a little inconsistent in it, and is, as Mr. *Wolaston* would call it, a practical lye. What pity he could not for a time adopt a fullness and gloom more suitable to his business, instead of that open look and winning smile he is commonly said to have? But the employment of his private hours plainly points out the source
of

* I remember to have read such an Account in a News-Paper, the very Date of which I have now forgot. I hope for the indulgence of the reader, if it should happen not to be exactly true.

of his mirth. We find him there hugging and applauding himself at the train he has laid, which, though, from the nature of the country, it may require some time, will in the end effectually do our business. The *Duke de Praslin* is certainly a better man, who appears to feel some compunction for the part he is acting. Compunction in a *French* minister is so rare a thing, that I hope the reader will make great deductions from his faults on that account. His words are these in a letter to *M. de Nivernois*, dated *Paris, April 16, 1763*.

‘ *Il est bien vrai que nous faisons tous deux un metier qui ne nous convient pas: Vous en serez bientot debors et je serois bien content, si j’avois la meme perspective.*’

IN ENGLISH:

‘ It is very true that we are both of us practising a trade that we ought to be ashamed of. You will very soon be out of it, and I assure you that I should be very glad, if I had the same prospect.’

The *Duke de Nivernois* is indeed quite intolerable. He is continually regaling himself with the delicious prospect of what will one day happen. So in his letter of *May 12, 1763*.

‘ *Mon petit Boucher, qui vous porte ceci, est un bien joli sujet; si vous en avez le tems, parlez lui un peu de l’Angleterre, et vous verrez qu’il n’a pas perdu son tems: En verite’ je crois que cette ambassade Angloise profitera beaucoup UN JOUR a votre departement.*

IN ENGLISH:

‘My little Boucher who brings you this is quite a clever fellow. If you have the time, talk to him a little about *England*, and you will find that he has not thrown away his time. I verily do believe that this *English* embassy will ONE DAY OR OTHER be of great advantage to your department.’

So much for the *Duke de Nivernois*. I may be thought perhaps to lay too hard a task upon *Monfieur D'Eon*, in desiring him to explain another man's meaning, but he can certainly have no objection to explaining his own. At the end of one of the divisions of his book, there is a page printed all in capitals, in which he says something to the following effect: (I have not transcribed this part, and therefore may quote it incorrectly) ‘If the authors of my persecution are provoked by what I have here printed, and continue to persecute me, I will publish another complete edition, without any the least hiatus or blank.’ *Ce sera un texte aussi pur que la Genèse, ou il n'y aura pas les pointes des Masorettes*. ‘It shall be a text as pure as Genesis, where there shall not be even the points of the Masorettes.’ †

Every body must see this to be a menace, and will be curious to know what it relates to. I will not, after *Monfieur D'Eon's* late performance, distress him by asking this question, but shall be contented with only knowing
against

† Compare this, and indeed the whole publication, with the Chevalier's late protestations of his fidelity to his employers.

against whom it was directed. Was it not against the *English* Ministry? No, I forget myself. The then *English* Ministry were all honourable men, they had inspired *Monsieur D'Eon* with the justest veneration, and therefore it can be only against the *French* Ministry, that he levels his thunders.

I have a much better title to ask *Monsieur D'Eon* all these questions, than he can possibly have to ask me the name of the person, who carried the messages to *Sir George Yonge*, and *Mr. Fitzherbert*; a thing which I never knew, nor ever pretended to know. I presume indeed, this was the very reason, why he chose to address himself to me, instead of applying to *Sir George Yonge* at the Admiralty office, not half a mile from his own house, where he would probably have had as much information as he desired, and perhaps more.

The *Chevalier* never said a truer word, than that he cannot possibly be of any use to me, in support of *my* charge. I never indeed apprehended that he could, because *my* charge is *only* against *Lord Halifax*, which, happily for me, does not depend upon his testimony.

But, I will go further and say, that he cannot possibly be of any use, not only to me, but to any man in the kingdom. And therefore I know of nothing better to be done, than, wherever his papers are, to send him after them.

With our own countrymen we cannot so easily part.

Not that I apprehend they have any immediate designs of leaving us. Their arrangements are seemingly too well taken, and the positive publick declaration of the *Chevalier D'Lon*, is enough to inspire them with confidence, though ever so criminal. But time and change of circumstances make an alteration in the sentiments of private men, as well as in those of a nation. For instance; there are few people who would not six months ago have rejoiced at hearing that some certain individuals had taken a final leave of their country; whereas now there is nothing contemplated with greater pleasure, than their being resident among us. The publick now, instead of building a bridge, or making a road for them, would hang about their necks to detain them; and should they go away without taking leave, the incivility would be greatly complain'd of, tho' they should generously avoid putting the nation to any trouble, or expence, in conveying them beyond sea. If the public are thus changeable, is there any cruelty in supposing our great men may be equally so? Especially since we find, that they are in no hurry to vindicate their characters, and that the meeting of parliament is actually put off, 'till the nights are almost at the longest.

After all: If these important papers are thus irrecoverably lost, what satisfaction can the nation have for its most material injuries? This question will, I doubt not, occur to every lover of his country, and therefore I will take the liberty, notwithstanding my being a little obscure practitioner in the country, of chalking out one scheme, to which, I think, no reasonable or equitable objection

objection can be made. The proposal, I hope, will be thought excusable, at a time when the creatures of power tell us with a sort of insolent triumph, that *the enquiry is defeated*, that *nothing can now be done*; and openly rejoice, not that their Patrons are innocent, but merely, that they are safe.

It is well known, in how precipitate a manner, the preliminaries of the Peace were approved by the late house of Commons; that the articles were not suffered to be debated one by one, notwithstanding the great variety of matter that each of them afforded for discussion, and the evident impossibility, that country gentlemen, or indeed any gentlemen, could be previously acquainted with the several ties, dependencies and relations of so many distant states and colonies. Instead of this candid and sober method, strongly contended for by the minority, the house cut short all deliberation, and voted an immediate approbation of the Terms. What reason then can be alledg'd, why so precipitate a vote, carried by a majority that shut their ears against argument, should not immediately be rescinded? After which the merits of the peace may be again brought upon the carpet, as new matter, not yet prejudg'd by parliament.

For the rescinding it, there is this further plea, that since that time reasonable ground has appeared to imagine, that, however the vote was procured, the vitals of government, the very sources of our political life were at that time poisoned. It appears probable too, that formal proof of this was once offered and rejected; and that afterwards, the evidences and documents appealed to in confirmation of it, having been in vain attempted by force, were
fur-

surrendered by agreement. Is it possible for treason to smell ranker than this? And shall we suffer suspected persons to be protected in these circumstances by an act of their own contrivance and suggestion? Shall the vote of approbation continue to operate in their favour, and shall the manifold grounds of suspicion that have arisen since, have no operation against them?

I know there are people of a desponding character, so terrified at the suppos'd influence of the crown, and so disgusted at some late transactions, as to take it for granted, the parliament will pass any vote a favourite shall dictate. But I, for my own part, am far from entertaining any such idea. Great bodies of men may, and always will, have some obliquities in their conduct, but I will never believe, 'till experience convinces me, that, in so essential a point, they will swerve from the strict line of justice. Because a gentleman enjoys a precarious place, from which he saves a few hundreds a year, must I therefore suppose, that he will attend to this paltry consideration, when his much larger paternal possessions, and the interest of his whole posterity are consequentially at stake? If I am mistaken; if we are really bound down in a chain, so rivetted with gold that nothing will undo it; if we must sit still with our arms folded, 'till our enemies have drawn their nets quite round us; Adieu all courage, all hope, all endeavour: Let us prepare ourselves for the Catastrophe: Let us shut ourselves up in our own houses to weep over our children, since nothing can avert the ruin that so evidently threatens us.

POSTSCRIPT.

P O S T S C R I P T.

This pamphlet having been sent to the press in great haste, the following necessary additions have since occur'd. It should begin thus:

I should not have thought it necessary to have replied to the *Chevalier D'Eon*, notwithstanding his formal denial of the overtures referred to by me, if he had not at the same time insinuated, that he had once before given a direct contradiction to this report: Which, if true, would demonstrate, that I had dealt insincerely with the public, by reviving a story, already disavow'd. On the contrary, if it never was disavow'd, but rather admitted to be true, the *Chevalier* will stand convicted of great dissingenuity, and must not always expect to be believed, even when he speaks plain. The fact is thus:

Instead of the note inserted p. 13, l. 7. the following should have been printed at the bottom of the page:

Indeed? The war re-kindled? Does not this give a high idea of the importance of these papers, that the *French* should run the hazard of re-kindling the war for the sake of recovering them?

At the head of p. 14, insert the following:

May I be permitted to ask the *Chevalier* whether all the circumstances mentioned in this letter are true? that the *French* first pursued him with such inveterate hatred, and set so many engines at work to apprehend him? but afterwards, when like the *Beaver* he dropt his bag before the hunters, were all at once reconciled to him, and
not

not only released, but rewarded and provided for, his servant? What reward the *Chevalier* himself might have, and whether from *France*, or from the *Privy Purse* in *England*, I am not *absolutely* warranted to say. But I hope the *Chevalier* will gratify my curiosity, by telling me, what the contents of this bag were, that *could* make it so valuable.



ERRATA.

P. 5. l. 11. for *in* read *ni*.

P. 15. l. 1. for *continuellement* read *continuellement*.

F I N I S.

